

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 ARAE-00 /018 W

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P 021355Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9989

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9086

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJ: SIDOR STEEL EXPANSION

REF: STATE 205181

1. THE DEPT'S CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO A POSITIVE USG ROLE IN ASSISTING UEC/BLISS IS APPRECIATED HERE AND FULLY SHARED. HOWEVER, THE TONE AND THE MISLEADING CONTENT OF THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE IS ALSO OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO ME.

2. THE "UNDERSTANDING" ON THE PART OF THE DEPT AND THE COMPANIES THAT I INTENDED TO DISCUSS THE UEC/BLISS PROPOSAL WITH DR. ARGENIS (NOT "ARCHIE") GAMBOA DURING OUR RECENT VISIT TO CIUDAD GUYANA IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO ME. I NEVER ENTERTAINED OR EXPRESSED TO ANYONE ANY SUCH INTENTION. NOR WAS IT EVER PROPOSED TO ME THAT I DO SO. THE US STEEL REPRESENTATIVE HERE HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US NOT REPEAT NOT TO INTERVENE ON THEIR BEHALF AT THIS JUNCTURE. THE NOTION OF IGNORING THAT REQUEST DID NOT OCCUR TO ME.

3. I DID MAKE CLEAR TO DR. GAMBOA DURING THE TRIP, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, MY STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN SEEING GREATER PARTICIPATION BY US FIRMS IN THE SIDOR EXPANSION AND OTHER GUAYANA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. IF UEC AND BLISS DO IN FACT DESIRE MY PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER I WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER IT ALONG WITH OTHER TACTICAL ALTERNATIVES. IN THE MEANTIME, AND WITH EVERY INTENTION TO PROMOTE THIS AND OTHER US INTERESTS TO THE BEST OF THE EMBASSY'S ABILITY, I WOULD APPRECIATE IN FUTURE MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT THE COMPANIES WANT AND LESS MISGUIDED EXHORTATION.

SHLAUDEMAN

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